

Serial No. 10/518,524
Art Unit 3611

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 21 as follows:

~~These objects are solved, according to the invention, with the features of claims 1 to 7, respectively.~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4 as follows:

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the invention, the picture is fastened to the picture frame by means of fastening elements provided at least at two ledge rear sides of the frame ledges, the fastening elements preferably permitting a releasable connection between the one or more first fastening elements fastened to the frame ledges and the one or more second fastening elements provided at a picture. The fastening elements are ~~[[Velcro]]~~ VELCRO fasteners, for example. By providing the fastening elements at the rear side of the frame ledges, the picture can be stretched over the front of the frame which then is no longer visible. Preferably, all frame ledges are provided with corresponding fastening elements at their ledge rear sides so that in a rectangular frame, the picture can be stretched in horizontal as well as in vertical direction.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 27 as follows:

Preferably, the ledge rear sides are respectively provided with first fastening elements which cooperate with second fastening elements provided at the picture and are releasably connected with them in a nondestructive manner. By providing several fastening elements at each ledge rear side, a good stretching of a picture over the frame and thus the manufacture of a plane frameless picture is easily possible. Preferably, the fastening elements which are preferably ~~[[Velcro]]~~ VELCRO fasteners extend over the entire length of the ledge rear sides.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7 as follows:

For the reception of the fastening elements - which preferably are strip-shaped ~~[[Velcro]]~~ VELCRO bands - in an accurate position, the rear sides of the frame ledges

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preferably comprise a groove into which the first fastening element can be inserted.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9 as follows:

At a ledge rear side 22 of the frame ledge configured as a hollow profile, a part of a **[[Velcro]] VELCRO** band or **[[Velcro]] VELCRO** fastener is provided as a first fastening element 24. The fastening element 24 can be connected with the rear side 22 by glueing. The first fastening element 24 is arranged in a groove 26 of the frame ledge 10. The position of the first fastening element 24 is defined by the groove 26. The groove 26 is formed by two projections projecting vertically from the rear side 22 and extending over the entire length of the frame ledge 10.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 17 as follows:

At its outer border, a picture 32 comprises second fastening elements 34 cooperating with the first fastening elements 24. Preferably, they are formed by a corresponding **[[Velcro]] VELCRO** band as well. The second fastening element 34 can be sewn on the picture which preferably consists of cloth.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 9 as follows:

In the illustrated embodiment, the connecting elements 12 comprise two rod-shaped projections 20 arranged at right angles to each other (Fig. 3), which are also L-shaped in cross section (Fig. 5). These L-shaped rod-shaped projections 20 are inserted into the insertion pockets 18 (Fig. 2) for being connected with the frame ledges 10. To generate a sufficient but not too high friction between the rod-shaped projections and the inner walls of the insertion pockets 18, the rod-shaped projections 20 comprise lamellae **[[44,26]] 44, 46** as friction elements (Fig. 5). In the state of being inserted, the lamellae 44,46 contact the inner walls 48 and 50 (Fig. 2) of the insertion pocket 18, respectively. In doing so, the lamellae 44,46, which have an elastic configuration, are slightly deformed. By the provision of elastic lamellae 44,46, manufacturing tolerances can be evened out, on the one hand, and a secure hold of the rod-shaped projections 20 in the insertion pocket 18 can be guaranteed, on the other hand. Since the lamellae 44,46 are made of a more elastic plastic than an L-shaped carrier 52 of the rod-shaped

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projection 20, the rod-shaped projection 20 consists of two parts, an L-shaped inner part 54 being inserted into the L-shaped carrier 52. The L-shaped inner part 54 is made of a more elastic plastic and forms the lamellae 44,46. The L-shaped inner part 54 can be fastened in the carrier 52 by glueing. Preferably, dovetail-shaped projections 56 are provided at the carriers 52 (Fig. 4) so that the inner part 54 can be connected with the carrier 52 by inserting or pushing it in.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 23 as follows:

At a rear side 64 of the corner portion 58, a fastening element 66, preferably in the form of a VELCRO fastener, is provided. Thus, the first fastening elements 24 as well as the fastening elements 66 form a self-contained frame to which corresponding fastening elements 34 provided at the picture 32 can be mounted. To be able to arrange the frame at a distance to the wall, spacers 16 are provided (Fig. 1). The spacers 16 (Fig. 6) are also arranged in the groove 40 extending over the entire length in each frame ledge 10. In cross section, the spacers 16 substantially have the shape of an L and comprise a leg 68 projecting into the groove 40. This leg comprises lamella- or web-shaped projections 70 so that the leg 38 is clampingly held in the groove 40 by friction.